[English]

Railway Projects in Orissa

3661. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of new projects announced in the Railway budget for Orissa;

(b) the projects for which technical sanction has been given;

(c) the projects which are awaiting technical sanction; and

(d) the amount provided for these projects during the current budget?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The cost of new projects in Orissa announced in the Budget 1997-98 and Supplementary Budget 1997-98 is Rs. 501.86 crores.

(b) and (c) Detailed estimates for the projects are yet to be sanctioned:—

1.	Angul-Sukinda Road	New Line
2.	Nergundi-Cuttack Paradeep-Raghunathpur	Doubling
3.	Lanjigarh-Titlagarh	Doubling
4.	Rahama-Paradeep	Doubling
5.	Naupada-Gunupur	Gauge Conversion

(d) The amount provided for these projects in the Budget 1997-98 and Supplementary Budget is Rs. 23 lakhs.

BALCO

3662. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lease of the mine located at Khurkhuri Dadar in Distt. Mandia of M.P. released to Bharat Aluminium Company is proposed to be withdrawn during 1998-99;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has also been prepared by the Government for regularization of workers and other labourers working therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the BALCO has applied to the Government for the mining of Bauxite in Hazari Dadar; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not granting permission to the said company so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) At Khurkhury Dadar, District Mandla of MP, BALCO has a residential/office establishment which looks after operation of mining leases of bauxite situated at Raktidadar and Nanhoodadar. These mining leases have been granted to BALCO upto 12 September, 1999.

(b) and (c) With the depleting reserves of Bauxite at the Raktidadar and Nanhoodadar mines, the requirement of workers and labourers has gone down. However, at the time of closure of these mines, BALCO has plans to re-deploy company's workers in other new mines like Manipat in the District Surguja, etc.

(d) and (e) BALCO was granted mining lease for bauxite in April, 1977 in the Hazaridadar area in Mandla district which was valid for 10 years. However, in November, 1986, when BALCO submitted application for renewal on mining lease, it was rejected by the State Govt. on the ground that the area in question falls in the forest area. BALCO went in appeal in December, 1989 against the order of the State Govt. and the Central Govt. Tribunal by its order dated 10th January, 1990 set aside the order of State Govt. and advised the State Govt. to decide the renewal of lease on merits.

Laying of Diversion Rail Line in Vijayawada Yard

3663. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay a diversion line in Vijayawada yard and to remove Satyanaranapuram railway line;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 10 lakhs in 1997-98.

(c) By March, 1999.

[Translation]

Panchayati Raj System

3664. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for giving more powers to Panchayats and propose to make amendments in the law accordingly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested